

# Bret Halley

January 12, 2024

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division, Surface Water Protection  
Attn: Rachel Heinz  
1110 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Draft AZPDES renewal permit for South32 Hermosa Project (AZ0026387); LTF No. 95353  
Dear Ms. Heinz:

I support the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's proposal to renew the AZPDES permit for the South32 Hermosa Project south of Patagonia. I believe the permit complies with the federal Clean Water Act and parallel Arizona state law and will protect the quality of the permitted receiving waters.

This project is important to my business because Valley Forge & Bolt has supplied products to many of Arizona's mines since 1974. Our 100 employees appreciate new opportunities within Arizona. It is good to know ADEQ looks after Arizona and helps look after our economic wellbeing in the process.

South32 has proven itself to be a responsible permit holder and good corporate citizen. The Hermosa project also offers the prospect of badly needed economic development in a community that needs more. If the mine is ultimately developed, it will also provide the only domestic source of manganese and a key additional domestic source of zinc. Manganese and zinc are critical minerals of substantial strategic importance to the American economy and the clean energy transition.

I urge ADEQ to approve the proposed permit renewal as written.

Sincerely,  
Bret Halley  
C.O.O.  
Valley Forge & Bolt Mfg. Co.